

state of utah



DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES

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Utah Division of Oil, Gas, And Mining
Department of Natural Resources
1588 West North Temple
Salt Lake City, Utah 84116

DIVISION OF
OIL, GAS & MINING

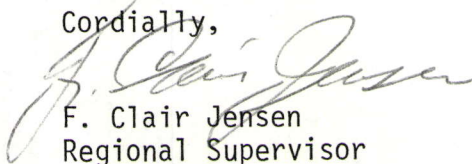
Dear Sirs:

In reference to the show cause order #ACT/027/006 we would like to offer the following on the Continental Lime Cricket Mountain plant and quarry. The quarry is located on sections 25 and 36 T21S. R10W in the Cricket Mountains.

While the wildlife impacts from this entire development will not be great, there will be some. The quarry, haul roads, and processing plant are located within the Cricket Mountain segment of the Southwest Desert antelope herd and will definitely impact these big game animals. When the initial work on this project was started in the fall of 1979 a change in the movement patterns of the antelope^{was} indicated by an increase in highway mortality at the T in Peaks road junction on SR-257. It was felt by the Southern Regional Office staff that this might have been due to the antelope seeking different water sources but it has not been possible to study this problem so no conclusive reason can be presented now. The limiting factor in this area for antelope is water and thus losses of habitat and disturbance factors can be easily mitigated by water development(i.e.- big game guzzlers). Many raptors nest in the cliffs along the east side of the Cricket Mountains but it is not known if any prairie falcon or golden eagle nests are found in these sections but they definitely hunt all through the project area.

In conclusion we appreciate the opportunity to comment on this surface mining operation and to make a statement on the wildlife impacts of this project.

Cordially,


F. Clair Jensen
Regional Supervisor

FCJ: MCoffeen:mc